

"Pre-Convention Bulletin" a Desirable Innovation.—As stated at the outset of these comments, these various reports will be submitted to the House of Delegates to be referred to its proper committees and then acted upon by the House. The report of the proceedings of the House of Delegates will appear in next month's issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. It is our impression that the members of the House of Delegates, after this first experience with such a printed outline and survey of past and future work, will look with favor on this *Pre-Convention Bulletin*.

WILLIAM HENRY WELCH

The Eightieth Birthday of William H. Welch of Johns Hopkins.—William H. Welch, whose eightieth birthday occurred on April 8, was honored in many cities throughout the country by meetings held in his honor. These meetings were an expression of the high regard in which are held the contributions which he had made to scientific medicine and to humanity in the many years it has been his privilege to serve at the shrine of the healing art. Where formal meetings were not held, members of the profession who were aware of the celebration of his natal day gave him silent good wishes, in their pride at his notable achievements on behalf of modern scientific medicine.

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The Life and Work of Doctor Welch an Inspiration.—Both the lay world and the medical profession have reasons to be grateful for the existence of men like Doctor Welch. Modest, gracious, hard-working, clear-thinking—with vision and devotion he has carried on his work from the time bacteriology first came into real being through the researches of Pasteur, bringing forth from his laboratories from time to time, this, that or the other study on some medical problem, which would make it possible for his colleagues to do to better advantage their work in the conservation of human health and life.

Even at the age of eighty, he is still an active force in medical advancement, as witness the institution of the new department of the history of medicine which, largely through his urging and efforts, has been organized at Johns Hopkins University.

That he may live for many days to come, to see the further fruition of his past efforts and to receive the esteem and honor in which he is held by his colleagues from one end of the country to the other, is the wish not only of those who have had the privilege of working under him or of personally knowing him, but also of that great host of medical men who give him their meed of praise and recognition because, through the literature, they have learned to appreciate his splendid services to the medical profession and to the human family. His life is an inspiration to every medical man or woman desirous of performing real service.

EPIDEMIC CEREBROSPINAL FEVER

Recent Articles in California and Western Medicine.—Among the special articles of this issue is an article on epidemic cerebrospinal fever on the Pacific Coast by Dr. J. D. Geiger, who is the epidemiologist for the Hooper Foundation of the University of California. In the Miscellany department, in the "Clippings From the Lay Press" column, is reprinted a Washington dispatch concerning cerebrospinal meningitis, based on recent reports of the United States Public Health Service. A very interesting article, giving a report by Dr. Barnet E. Bonar on seventy-one Utah cases, was also printed in the November issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 316. The attention of readers of this journal is called to these articles, not only because of their general public health importance, but because the sequelae of this disease so often are little less than tragic.

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Outbreaks Aboard Ship.—Of special interest to Californians are the facts brought out by Doctor Geiger concerning epidemics on Pacific Ocean ships which dock at ports on the west coast of the United States. The recurring outbreaks aboard certain ships trading with the Orient indicate how rigid must be the port quarantines if infected persons are to be kept from shore entrance to Pacific Coast states. Lack of such stringent quarantine regulations might make possible the entrance of one or more infected persons or carriers, with possibilities of untold horror to those who might subsequently become infected.

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Report Suspicious Cases to Health Departments.—Cerebrospinal fever is one of the diseases which menace human health and happiness, and life as well, and all practitioners should be on the alert to recognize the disease when and wherever met. Suspicious cases should be promptly reported to local and to state health officers.

BACK TO NATURE FOR DISCOVERIES IN SCIENCE

"There Is Nothing New Under the Sun."—Certainly when one considers the universe—insofar as our feeble vision will permit—and to think of the earthly planet on which we human beings have our existence, and to note the infallible and never-varying laws under which nature guides it and all things upon it, we cannot do other than to acknowledge—as we note the phenomena evidenced in the mineral, plant and animal kingdoms—that probably nothing that man has or will discover in relation to physical forces but has had an application in nature for ages and ages past, in manner manifold and almost beyond the comprehension of most humans.

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An Interesting Contribution From Peru on Wound Care.—The general observations, as just given, come to us as we consider a newspaper clipping of a few days ago. The item had to do with a recent report by the Field Museum of

Natural History of Chicago, in which Llewellyn Williams, leader of the Peruvian expedition into the Amazon country, tells how the Peruvian Indians long antedated the use of metal suture clips brought out a few years ago, by using the powerful jaws of certain ants to hold opposing wound surfaces in proper apposition. More concerning this will be found in the "Clippings From the Lay Press" column of this issue.

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The foregoing shows at least that even though one may have an unusual fund of general or special knowledge and skill that it is wise to go through life in quite humble spirit. That which appears as a strange theory or idle fancy today, in the light of better knowledge not infrequently is found on the morrow to be either a veritable fact or based on such.

CALIFORNIA ACQUIRES TWO FOUNDATIONS FOR CANCER RESEARCH—THE FIRST AT LOS ANGELES AND THE SECOND AT SAN FRANCISCO

Two foundations, or organizations, for the study of cancer and kindred problems were announced at the Fifty-ninth Annual Session of the California Medical Association held at Del Monte April 28 to May 1. The announcement of this expression of confidence by lay fellow citizens in the work of members of the medical profession who were carrying on cancer studies was received with much approval. In the name of the California Medical Association, the House of Delegates at its meeting on Wednesday, April 30, passed resolutions congratulating the donors whose contributions made these benefactions possible and expressing good wishes to the two California colleagues, Dr. Walter B. Coffey and John D. Humber, whose experimental studies on cancer excited such widespread interest in the cancer problem because of the publicity which lay newspapers and publications gave to the cancer clinics established after their paper had been presented before the San Francisco Pathological Society. The comments made in this column in the March 1930 issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 190, told the story of that presentation, and it is not necessary to repeat what was there stated other than to add that through the clinics in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other places in California, a total of almost two thousand inoperable patients are now receiving injections of the Coffey-Humber suprarenal cortex extract. Practically all of these patients who request treatment, prior to receiving the injections, without cost or fee, state their willingness to have autopsies performed in the event of death. California, therefore, through the wide publicity given by the lay press, overnight has developed what are probably the largest cancer clinics in the entire world.

The first gift for the further promotion of these cancer studies was made at Los Angeles, through the generosity of W. K. Kellogg of Battle Creek, Michigan and Pomona, California, who set aside the sum of \$2,000,000. The income

is to be used through the Kellogg Foundation, the experiments to be carried on by the White Memorial Hospital of the College of Medical Evangelists.

The second donation was made by a group of well-known Californians headed by Herbert Fleishhacker, Paul Shoup, Stanley Dollar, and other citizens who underwrote a subscription for the sum of \$500,000 to be used in this and associated research work.

California as a whole may well feel proud of these public-spirited citizens who have thus given expression of their love of their fellows and their regard and faith in Doctors Coffey and Humber and of the medical profession.

The resolutions which were unanimously adopted by the House of Delegates read as follows:

Whereas, The dread scourge of cancer, in an ever-mounting toll, is decimating the population of our country so that today its dire death roll accounts for the life, in those of forty years of age and upward, of one woman out of every eight and one man out of approximately every twelve, thus making it a sacred duty incumbent upon all members of our beloved profession to combat its ravages with every arrow in the armamentarium of the science and skill at our command, and to shrink from no sacrifice, however great, in order to halt its forward march and bring to an end its almost unveiled threat to annihilate mankind; and

Whereas, Many agencies and investigators are making researches designed to add to man's knowledge of this disease which causes so much illness, pain, death, and other loss to individual citizens and to the nation; and

Whereas, Some recent studies by two members of the California Medical Association, Dr. Walter B. Coffey and Dr. John D. Humber, are, in the opinion of many of the leaders of our profession who have had the opportunity to observe this work, of such nature as to give aid in the solution of the cancer problem; and which work and investigations of our California colleagues are, as stated by them, and will remain for some time in the research period, and no scientific or definite pronouncement can or should now be made of the results thereof; and

Whereas, In the city of San Francisco Herbert Fleishhacker, Paul Shoup, and Stanley Dollar, acting for themselves and for other public-spirited citizens, have arranged to place the sum of \$500,000 at the disposal of the Better Health Foundation of California to carry on these investigations and kindred studies; and in the city of Los Angeles W. K. Kellogg has given the Kellogg Foundation the income from an endowment of \$2,000,000 for similar purposes; and

Whereas, This Association, by its constitution and membership, is irrevocably committed to the principles of the progress of medical science and the unprejudiced pursuit of truth and fact; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the California Medical Association, acting through its House of Delegates in its fifty-ninth annual session assembled at Del Monte, cordially approves and commends this generous and humane action of Paul Shoup, Herbert Fleishhacker, Stanley Dollar and their associates, and W. K. Kellogg that affords the necessary means, administered by competent authority, to enable the investigations to properly proceed, adds greatly to the resources of scientific research in the State of California and encourages others to emulate the good deeds of these men; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to each of the donors with a suitable letter of transmittal by this Association.